

~~~~~ Echoes from  
The Sabine Farm ~~~~~  
~~~~~ By Eugene And  
Roswell Martin Field ~~~~~

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ECHOES
FROM
THE SABINE FARM



by
Eugene and Roswell Martin Field



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OME, dear old friend, and with us twain

To calm Digentian groves repair:

The turtle coos his sweet refrain

And posies are a-blooming there;

And there the romping Sabine girls

Bind myrtle in their lustrous curls.

I know a certain ilex-tree

Whence leaps a fountain cool and clear.

Its voices summon you and me:

Come, let us haste to share its cheer!

Methinks the rapturous song it sings

Should woo our thoughts from mortal things.

But, good old friend, I charge thee well,
Watch thou my brother all the while,
Lest some fair Lydia cast her spell
Round him unschooled in female guile.
Those damsels have no charms for me:
Guard thou that brother.—I'll guard thee!

And, lo, sweet friend! behold this cup,
Round which the garlands intertwine:
With Massic it is foaming up,
And we would drink to thee and thine.
And of the draught thou shalt partake.
Who lov'st us for our father's sake.

Hark you! from yonder Sabine farm
Echo the songs of long ago,
With power to soothe and grace to charm
What ills humanity may know:
With that sweet music in the air.
'Tis Love and Summer everywhere.

So, though no grief consumes our lot

(Since all our lives have been discreet),

Come, in this consecrated spot,

Let's see if pagan cheer be sweet.

Now, then, the songs: but, first, more wine.

The gods be with you, friends of mine!

E. F.





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ECHOES FROM THE SABINE FARM.

AN INVITATION TO MÆCENAS.



DEAR, noble friend ! a virgin cask
Of wine solicits your attention ;
And roses fair, to deck your hair.
And things too numerous to mention.
So tear yourself awhile away
From urban turmoil, pride, and splendor,
And deign to share what humble fare
And sumptuous fellowship I tender.
The sweet content retirement brings
Smoothes out the ruffled front of kings.

The evil planets have combined
To make the weather hot and hotter ;
By parboiled streams the shepherd dreams
Vainly of ice-cream soda-water.
And meanwhile you, defying heat,
With patriotic ardor ponder
On what old Rome essays at home,
And what her heathen do out yonder.
Mæcenas, no such vain alarm
Disturbs the quiet of this farm !

God in His providence obscures
The goal beyond this vale of sorrow,
And smiles at men in pity when
They seek to penetrate the morrow.
With faith that all is for the best,
Let 's bear what burdens are presented,
That we shall say, let come what may,
“We die, as we have lived, contented !
Ours is to-day ; God's is the rest. —
He doth ordain who knoweth best.”

Dame Fortune plays me many a prank.

When she is kind, oh, how I go it !

But if again she 's harsh, — why, then

I am a very proper poet !

When favoring gales bring in my ships,

I hie to Rome and live in clover ;

Elsewise I steer my skiff out here,

And anchor till the storm blows over.

Compulsory virtue is the charm

Of life upon the Sabine farm !



CHLORIS PROPERLY REBUKED.



CHLORIS, my friend, I pray you your misconduct to forswear ;

The wife of poor old Ibycus should have
more *savoir faire*.

A woman at your time of life, and drawing near death's
door,

Should not play with the girly girls, and think she 's
en rapport.

What 's good enough for Pholoe you cannot well essay ;
Your daughter very properly courts the *jeunesse*
dorée, —

A Thyiad, who, when timbrel beats, cannot her joy
restrain,

But plays the kid, and laughs and giggles *à l'Américaine*.

'T is more becoming, Madame, in a creature old and
poor,

To sit and spin than to engage in an *affaire d'amour*.

The lutes, the roses, and the wine drained deep are not
for you ;

Remember what the poet says : *Ce monde est plein de
fous !*



TO THE FOUNTAIN OF BANDUSIA.



FOUNTAIN of Bandusia !

Whence crystal waters flow,

With garlands gay and wine I 'll pay

The sacrifice I owe ;

A sportive kid with budding horns

I have, whose crimson blood

Anon shall dye and sanctify

Thy cool and babbling flood.

O fountain of Bandusia !

The Dog-star's hateful spell

No evil brings into the springs

That from thy bosom well ;

Here oxen, wearied by the plow,
The roving cattle here
Hasten in quest of certain rest,
And quaff thy gracious cheer.

O fountain of Bandusia !
Ennobled shalt thou be,
For I shall sing the joys that spring
Beneath yon ilex-tree.
Yes, fountain of Bandusia,
Posterity shall know
The cooling brooks that from thy nooks
Singing and dancing go.



TO THE FOUNTAIN OF BANDUSIA.



FOUNTAIN of Bandusia ! more glittering than
glass,
And worthy of the pleasant wine and toasts
that freely pass ;
More worthy of the flowers with which thou modestly
art hid,
To-morrow willing hands shall sacrifice to thee a kid.

In vain the glory of the brow where proudly swell
above
The growing horns, significant of battle and of love ;
For in thy honor he shall die,—the offspring of the
herd, —
And with his crimson life-blood thy cold waters shall be
stirred.

The Dog-star's cruel season, with its fierce and blazing
heat,

Has never sent its scorching rays into thy glad retreat ;

The oxen, wearied with the plow, the herd which wanders near,
Have found a grateful respite and delicious coolness here.

When of the graceful ilex on the hollow rocks I sing,

Thou shalt become illustrious, O sweet Bandusian spring !

Among the noble fountains which have been enshrined
in fame,

Thy dancing, babbling waters shall in song our homage
claim.



THE PREFERENCE DECLARED.



OW, I detest the Persian pomp ;

I hate those linden-bark devices ;

And as for roses, holy Moses !

They can't be got at living prices !

Myrtle is good enough for us, —

For *you*, as bearer of my flagon ;

For *me*, supine beneath this vine,

Doing my best to get a jag on !



A TARDY APOLOGY.

I.



MÆCENAS, you will be my death, — though
friendly you profess yourself, —

If to me in a strain like this so often you
address yourself:

“Come, Holly, why this laziness? Why indolently shock
you us?

Why with Lethean cups fall into desuetude innocuous?”

A god, Mæcenas! yea, a god hath proved the very
curse of me!

If my iambs are not done, pray, do not think the
worse of me;

Anacreon for young Bathyllus burned without apology,
And wept his simple measures on a sample of conchology.

Now, you yourself, Mæcenas, are enjoying this beatitude ;
If by no brighter beauty Ilium fell, you 've cause for
gratitude.

A certain Phryne keeps me on the rack with lovers
numerous ;

This is the artful hussy's neat conception of the humorous !



A TARDY APOLOGY.

II.



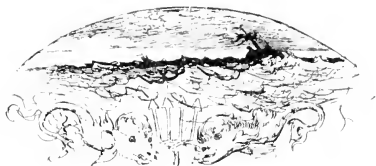
YOU ask me, friend,
Why I don't send
The long since due-and-paid-for numbers ;
Why, songless, I
As drunken lie
Abandoned to Lethean slumbers.

Long time ago
(As well you know)
I started in upon that carmen ;
My work was vain, —
But why complain?
When gods forbid, how helpless are men !

Some ages back,
The sage Anack
Courtèd a frisky Samian body,
Singing her praise
In metered phrase
As flowing as his bowls of toddy.

'Til I was hoarse
Might I discourse
Upon the cruelties of Venus ;
'Twere waste of time
As well of rhyme,
For you 've been there yourself, Mæcenas !

Perfect your bliss
If some fair miss
Love you yourself and *not* your minæ :
I, fortune's sport,
All vainly court
The beauteous, polyandrous Phryne !



TO THE SHIP OF STATE.



SHIP of state,

Shall new winds bear you back upon the sea?

What are you doing? Seek the harbor's lee

Ere 't is too late !

Do you bemoan

Your side was stripped of oarage in the blast?

Swift Africus has weakened, too, your mast ;

The sailyards groan.

Of cables bare.

Your keel can scarce endure the lordly wave.

Your sails are rent ; you have no gods to save,

Or answer pray'r.

Though Pontic pine,
The noble daughter of a far-famed wood,
You boast your lineage and title good, —
A useless line !

The sailor there
In painted sterns no reassurance finds ;
Unless you owe derision to the winds,
Beware — beware !

My grief erewhile,
But now my care — my longing ! shun the seas
That flow between the gleaming Cyclades,
Each shining isle.



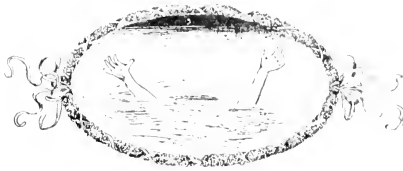
QUITTING AGAIN.



THE hero of
Affairs of love
By far too numerous to be mentioned,
And scarred as I'm,
It seemeth time
That I were mustered out and pensioned.

So on this wall
My lute and all
I hang, and dedicate to Venus;
And I implore
But one thing more
Ere all is at an end between us.

O goddess fair
Who reignest where
The weather's seldom bleak and snowy,
This boon I urge :
In anger scourge
My old cantankerous sweetheart, Chloe !



SAILOR AND SHADE.

SAILOR.



YOU, who have compassed land and sea,

Now all unburied lie ;

All vain your store of human lore,

For you were doomed to die.

The sire of Pelops likewise fell, —

Jove's honored mortal guest ;

So king and sage of every age

At last lie down to rest.

Plutonian shades enfold the ghost

Of that majestic one

Who taught as truth that he, forsooth,

Had once been Pentheus' son ;

Believe who may, he's passed away,

And what he did is done.

A last night comes alike to all ;
One path we all must tread,
Through sore disease or stormy seas
Or fields with corpses red.
Whate'er our deeds, that pathway leads
To regions of the dead.

SHADE.

The fickle twin Illyrian gales
O'erwhelmed me on the wave ;
But you that live, I pray you give
My bleaching bones a grave !
Oh, then when cruel tempests rage
You all unharmed shall be ;
Jove's mighty hand shall guard by land
And Neptune's on the sea.
Perchance you fear to do what may
Bring evil to your race ?
Oh, rather fear that like me here
You'll lack a burial place.

So, though you be in proper haste,

Bide long enough, I pray,

To give me, friend, what boon shall send

My soul upon its way!



LET US HAVE PEACE.

IN maudlin spite let Thracians fight
Above their bowls of liquor ;
But such as we, when on a spree,
Should never brawl and bicker !

These angry words and clashing swords
Are quite *de trop*, I'm thinking ;
Brace up, my boys, and hush your noise,
And drown your wrath in drinking.

Aha, 't is fine, — this mellow wine
With which our host would dope us !
Now let us hear what pretty dear
Entangles him of Opus.

I see you blush, — nay, comrades, hush !

Come, friend, though they despise you,
Tell me the name of that fair dame, —
Perchance I may advise you.

O wretched youth ! and is it truth

You love that fickle lady ?
I, doting dunce, courted her once ;
Since when, she 's reckoned shady !



TO QUINTUS DELLIUS.



BE tranquil, Dellius, I pray ;
For though you pine your life away
With dull complaining breath,
Or speed with song and wine each day,
Still, still your doom is death.

Where the white poplar and the pine
In glorious arching shade combine,
And the brook singing goes,
Bid them bring store of nard and wine
And garlands of the rose.

Let's live while chance and youth obtain ;
Soon shall you quit this fair domain

 Kissed by the Tiber's gold,
And all your earthly pride and gain
 Some heedless heir shall hold.

One ghostly boat shall some time bear
From scenes of mirthfulness or care

 Each fated human soul, —
Shall waft and leave its burden where
 The waves of Lethe roll.

*So come, I prithee, Dellius, mine ;
Let's sing our songs and drink our wine
 In that sequestered nook
Where the white poplar and the pine
 Stand listening to the brook.*



POKING FUN AT XANTHIAS.



IF your love for your handmaid you need feel
no shame.

Don't apologize, Xanthias, pray ;

Remember, Achilles the proud felt a flame

For Brissy, his slave, as they say.

Old Telamon's son, fiery Ajax, was moved

By the captive Tecmessa's ripe charms :

And Atrides, suspending the feast, it behooved

To gather a girl to his arms.

Now, how do you know that this yellow-haired maid

(This Phyllis you fain would enjoy)

Hasn't parents whose wealth would cast you in the
shade, —

Who would ornament you Xan, my boy?

Very likely the poor chick sheds copious tears,
And is bitterly thinking the while
Of the royal good times of her earlier years,
When her folks regulated the style !

It won't do at all, my dear boy, to believe
That she of whose charms you are proud
Is beautiful only as means to deceive, —
Merely one of the horrible crowd.
So constant a sweetheart, so loving a wife,
So averse to all notions of greed
Was surely not born of a mother whose life
Is a chapter you 'd better not read.

As an unbiased party I feel it my place
(For I don't like to do things by halves)
To compliment Phyllis, — her arms and her face
And (excuse me !) her delicate calves.

Tut, tut ! don't get angry, my boy, or suspect

You have any occasion to fear

A man whose deportment is always correct,

And is now in his forty-first year !



TO ARISTIUS FUSCUS.

FUSCUS, whoso to good inclines,
And is a faultless liver,
Nor Moorish spear nor bow need fear,
Nor poison-arrowed quiver.

Ay, though through desert wastes he roam,
Or scale the rugged mountains,
Or rest beside the murmuring tide
Of weird Hydaspan fountains!

Lo, on a time, I gayly paced
The Sabine confines shady,
And sung in glee of Lalage,
My own and dearest lady;

And as I sung, a monster wolf
Slunk through the thicket from me ;
But for that song, as I strolled along,
He would have overcome me !

Set me amid those poison mists
Which no fair gale dispelleth,
Or in the plains where silence reigns,
And no thing human dwelleth, —

Still shall I love my Lalage,
Still sing her tender graces ;
And while I sing, my theme shall bring
Heaven to those desert places !



TO ALBIUS TIBULLUS.

I.



OT to lament that rival flame

Wherewith the heartless Glyceria scorns you,

Nor waste your time in maudlin rhyme,

How many a modern instance warns you!

Fair-browed Lycoris pines away

Because her Cyrus loves another;

The ruthless churl informs the girl

He loves her only as a brother!

For he, in turn, courts Pholoe, —

A maid unscotched of love's fierce virus;

Why, goats will mate with wolves they hate

Ere Pholoe will mate with Cyrus!

Ah, weak and hapless human hearts,
By cruel Mother Venus fated
To spend this life in hopeless strife,
Because incongruously mated !

Such torture, Albius, is my lot ;
For, though a better mistress wooed me,
My Myrtale has captured me,
And with her cruelties subdued me !



TO ALBIUS TIBULLUS.

II.



RIEVE not, my Albius, if thoughts of Glycera
may haunt you,
Nor chant your mournful elegies because she
faithless proves ;
If now a younger man than you this cruel charmer
loves,
Let not the kindly favors of the past rise up to taunt
you.

Lycoris of the little brow for Cyrus feels a passion,
And Cyrus, on the other hand, toward Pholoe inclines ;
But ere this crafty Cyrus can accomplish his designs
She-goats will wed Apulian wolves in deference to
fashion.

Such is the will, the cruel will, of love-inciting Venus,
Who takes delight in wanton sport and ill-considered
jokes,
And brings ridiculous misfits beneath her brazen
yokes, —
A very infelicitous proceeding, just between us.

As for myself, young Myrtale, slave-born and lacking
graces,
And wilder than the Adrian tides which form Calabrian
bays,
Entangled me in pleasing chains and compromising
ways,
When — just my luck — a better girl was courting my
embraces.



TO MÆCENAS.



MÆCENAS, thou of royalty's descent,
Both my protector and dear ornament,
Among humanity's conditions are
Those who take pleasure in the flying car,
Whirling Olympian dust, as on they roll,
And shunning with the glowing wheel the goal;
While the ennobling palm, the prize of worth,
Exalts them to the gods, the lords of earth.

Here one is happy if the fickle crowd
His name the threefold honor has allowed;
And there another, if into his stores
Comes what is swept from Libyan threshing-floors.
He who delights to till his father's lands,
And grasps the delving-hoe with willing hands.

Can never to Attalic offers hark,
Or cut the Myrtoan Sea with Cyprian bark.
The merchant, timorous of Afric's breeze,
When fiercely struggling with Icarian seas
Praises the restful quiet of his home,
Nor wishes from the peaceful fields to roam;
Ah, speedily his shattered ships he mends, —
To poverty his lesson ne'er extends.

One there may be who never scorns to fill
His cups with mellow draughts from Massic's hill,
Nor from the busy day an hour to wean,
Now stretched at length beneath the arbut green,
Now at the softly whispering spring, to dream
Of the fair nymphs who haunt the sacred stream.
For camp and trump and clarion some have zest, —
The cruel wars the mothers so detest.
'Neath the cold sky the hunter spends his life,
Unmindful of his home and tender wife,
Whether the doe is seen by faithful hounds
Or Marsian boar through the fine meshes bounds.

But as for me, the ivy-wreaths, the prize
Of learned brows, exalt me to the skies ;
The shady grove, the nymphs and satyrs there,
Draw me away from people everywhere ;
If it may be, Enterpe's flute inspires,
Or Polyhymnia strikes the Lesbian lyres ;
And if you place me where no bard debars,
With head exalted I shall strike the stars !



TO HIS BOOK.



YOU vain, self-conscious little book,
Companion of my happy days,
How eagerly you seem to look
For wider fields to spread your lays ;
My desk and locks cannot contain you,
Nor blush of modesty restrain you.

Well, then, begone, fool that thou art !
But do not come to me and cry,

When critics strike you to the heart :

“ Oh, wretched little book am I ! ”

You know I tried to educate you

To shun the fate that must await you.

In youth you may encounter friends
(Pray this prediction be not wrong),
But wait until old age descends
And thumbs have smeared your gentlest song ;
Then will the moths connive to eat you
And rural libraries secrete you.

However, should a friend some word
Of my obscure career request,
Tell him how deeply I was stirred
To spread my wings beyond the nest ;
Take from my years, which are before you,
To boom my merits, I implore you.

Tell him that I am short and fat,
Quick in my temper, soon appeased,
With locks of gray, — but what of that?
Loving the sun, with nature pleased.
I'm more than four and forty, hark you, —
But ready for a night off, mark you !



FAME *vs.* RICHES.



THE Greeks had genius, — 't was a gift
The Muse vouchsafed in glorious measure ;
The boon of Fame they made their aim
And prized above all worldly treasure.

But *we*, — how do we train *our* youth ?
Not in the arts that are immortal,
But in the greed for gains that speed
From him who stands at Death's dark portal.

Ah, when this slavish love of gold
Once binds the soul in greasy fetters,
How prostrate lies, — how droops and dies
The great, the noble cause of letters !



THE LYRIC MUSE.



LOVE the lyric muse !

For when mankind ran wild in groves

Came holy Orpheus with his songs

And turned men's hearts from bestial loves,

From brutal force and savage wrongs ;

Amphion, too, and on his lyre

Made such sweet music all the day

That rocks, instinct with warm desire,

Pursued him in his glorious way.

I love the lyric muse !

Hers was the wisdom that of yore

Taught man the rights of fellow man,

Taught him to worship God the more,

And to revere love's holy ban.

Hers was the hand that jotted down
The laws correcting divers wrongs ;
And so came honor and renown
To bards and to their noble songs.

I love the lyric muse !
Old Homer sung unto the lyre ;
Tyrtaeus, too, in ancient days ;
Still warmed by their immortal fire,
How doth our patriot spirit blaze !
The oracle, when questioned, sings ;
So our first steps in life are taught.
In verse we soothe the pride of kings,
In verse the drama has been wrought.

I love the lyric muse !
Be not ashamed, O noble friend,
In honest gratitude to pay
Thy homage to the gods that send
This boon to charm all ill away.

With solemn tenderness revere

 This voiceful glory as a shrine

Wherein the quickened heart may hear

 The counsels of a voice divine !



A COUNTERBLAST AGAINST GARLIC.



DAY the man who has cruelly murdered his
sire —

A crime to be punished with death —

Be condemned to eat garlic till he shall expire

Of his own foul and venomous breath !

What stomachs these rustics must have who can eat

This dish that Canidia made,

Which imparts to my colon a torturous heat,

And a poisonous look, I 'm afraid !

They say that ere Jason attempted to yoke

The fire-breathing bulls to the plow

He smeared his whole body with garlic. — a joke

Which I fully appreciate now.

When Medea gave Glauce her beautiful dress,
In which garlic was scattered about,
It was cruel and rather low-down, I confess,
But it settled the point beyond doubt.

On thirsty Apulia ne'er has the sun
Inflicted such terrible heat ;
As for Hercules' robe, although poisoned, 't was fun
When compared with this garlic we eat !
Mæcenas, if ever on garbage like this
You express a desire to be fed,
May Mrs. Mæcenas object to your kiss,
And lie at the foot of the bed !



AN EXCUSE FOR LALAGE.



O bear the yoke not yet your love's submissive
neck is bent,
To share a husband's toil, or grasp his
amorous intent ;

Over the fields, in cooling streams, the heifer longs to go,
Now with the calves disporting where the pussy-willows
grow.

Give up your thirst for unripe grapes, and, trust me,
you shall learn

How quickly in the autumn time to purple they will turn.
Soon she will follow you, for age steals swiftly on the
maid :

And all the precious years that you have lost she will
have paid.

Soon she will seek a lord, beloved as Pholoe, the coy,
Or Chloris, or young Gyges, that deceitful, girlish boy,
Whom, if you placed among the girls, and loosed his
 flowing locks,
The wondering guests could not decide which one
 decorum shocks.



AN APPEAL TO LYCE.

LYCE, the gods have heard my prayers, as gods
will hear the dutiful,

And brought old age upon you, though you
still affect the beautiful.

You sport among the boys, and drink and chatter on
quite aimlessly ;

And in your cups with quavering voice you torment
Cupid shamelessly.

For blooming Chia, Cupid has a feeling more than
brotherly ;

He knows a handsaw from a hawk whenever winds are
southerly.

He pats her pretty cheeks, but looks on you as a
monstrosity ;

Your wrinkles and your yellow teeth excite his animosity.

For jewels bright and purple Coan robes you are not
dressable ;

Unhappily for you the public records are accessible.

Where is your charm, and where your bloom and gait
so firm and sensible,

That drew my love from Cinara, — a lapse most
indefensible ?

To my poor Cinara in youth Death came with great
celerity ;

Egad, that never can be said of you with any verity !

The old crow that you are, the teasing boys will jeer,
compelling you

To roost at home. Reflect, all this is straight that I
am telling you.



A ROMAN WINTER-PIECE.

I.



EE, Thaliarch mine, how, white with snow,
Soracte mocks the sullen sky;
How, groaning loud, the woods are bowed,
And chained with frost the rivers lie.

Pile, pile the logs upon the hearth;
We 'll melt away the envious cold:
And, better yet, sweet friend, we 'll wet
Our whistles with some four-year-old.

Commit all else unto the gods,
Who, when it pleaseth them, shall bring
To fretful deeps and wooded steeps
The mild, persuasive grace of Spring.

Let not 'To-morrow, but 'To-day,
Your ever active thoughts engage,
Frisk, dance, and sing, and have your fling,
Unharm'd, unaw'd of crabbed Age.

Let 's steal content from Winter's wrath,
And glory in the artful theft,
That years from now folks shall allow
'T was cold indeed when we got left.

So where the whisperings and the mirth
Of girls invite a sportive chap,
Let 's fare awhile, — aha, you smile;
You guess my meaning, — *verbum sap.*



A ROMAN WINTER-PIECE.

II.

NOW stands Soracte white with snow, now bend
the laboring trees,
And with the sharpness of the frost the
stagnant rivers freeze.
Pile up the billets on the hearth, to warmer cheer
incline,
And draw, my Thaliarchus, from the Sabine jar the wine.
The rest leave to the gods, who still the fiercely warring
wind,
And to the morrow's store of good or evil give no
mind.

Whatever day your fortune grants, that day mark up for
gain ;

And in your youthful bloom do not the sweet amours
disdain.

Now on the Campus and the squares, when evening
shades descend,

Soft whisperings again are heard, and loving voices
blend ;

And now the low delightful laugh betrays the lurking
maid,

While from her slowly yielding arms the forfeiture is paid.



TO DIANA.



VIRGIN, tri-formed goddess fair,

The guardian of the groves and hills,

Who hears the girls in their despair

Cry out in childbirth's cruel ills,

And saves them from the Stygian flow !

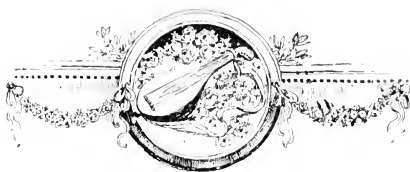
Let the pine-tree my cottage near

Be sacred to thee evermore,

That I may give to it each year

With joy the life-blood of the boar,

Now thinking of the sidelong blow.



TO HIS LUTE.

IF ever in the sylvan shade
A song immortal we have made,
Come now, O lute, I prithee come,
Inspire a song of Latium!

A Lesbian first thy glories proved;
In arms and in repose he loved
To sweep thy dulcet strings, and raise
His voice in Love's and Liber's praise.
The Muses, too, and him who clings
To Mother Venus' apron-strings,
And Lycus beautiful, he sung
In those old days when you were young.

O shell, that art the ornament
Of Phœbus, bringing sweet content
To Jove, and soothing troubles all, —
Come and requite me, when I call!



TO LEUCONÖE.

I.



HAT end the gods may have ordained for me,
And what for thee,

Seek not to learn, Leuconöe ; we may not
know.

Chaldean tables cannot bring us rest.

'Tis for the best

To bear in patience what may come, or weal or woe.

If for more winters our poor lot is cast,

Or this the last,

Which on the crumbling rocks has dashed Etruscan seas.

Strain clear the wine ; this life is short, at best.

Take hope with zest,

And, trusting not To-morrow, snatch To-day for ease !



TO LEUCONÖE.

II.



SEEK not, Leuconöe, to know how long you 're
going to live yet,
What boons the gods will yet withhold, or
what they 're going to give yet ;
For Jupiter will have his way, despite how much we
worry, —
Some will hang on for many a day, and some die in a
hurry.
The wisest thing for you to do is to embark this diem
Upon a merry escapade with some such bard as I am.
And while we sport I 'll reel you off such odes as shall
surprise ye ;
To-morrow, when the headache comes, — well, then I 'll
satirize ye !



TO LIGURINUS.

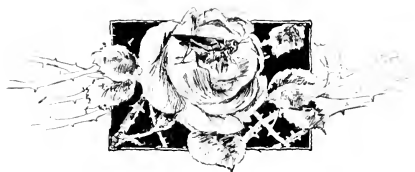
I.



HOUGH mighty in Love's favor still,
Though cruel yet, my boy,
When the unwelcome dawn shall chill
Your pride and youthful joy,
The hair which round your shoulder grows
Is rudely cut away,
Your color, redder than the rose,
Is changed by youth's decay, —

Then, Ligurinus, in the glass
Another you will spy.
And as the shaggy face, alas!
You see, your grief will cry :

“Why in my youth could I not learn
The wisdom men enjoy?
Or why to men cannot return
The smooth cheeks of the boy?”



TO LIGURINUS.

II.



CRUEL fair,
Whose flowing hair
The envy and the pride of all is,
As onward roll
The years, that poll
Will get as bald as a billiard ball is ;
Then shall your skin, now pink and dimply,
Be tanned to parchment, sear and pimply !

When you behold
Yourself grown old,
These words shall speak your spirits moody :

“ Unhappy one !

What heaps of fun

I ’ve missed by being goody-goody !

Oh, that I might have felt the hunger

Of loveless age when I was younger ! ”



THE HAPPY ISLES.



H, come with me to the Happy Isles

In the golden haze off yonder,

Where the song of the sun-kissed breeze beguiles

And the ocean loves to wander.

Fragrant the vines that mantle those hills,

Proudly the fig rejoices,

Merrily dance the virgin rills,

Blending their myriad voices.

Our herds shall suffer no evil there,

But peacefully feed and rest them :

Never thereto shall prowling bear

Or serpent come to molest them.

Neither shall Eurus, wanton bold,
Nor feverish drought distress us,
But he that compasseth heat and cold
Shall temper them both to bless us.

There no vandal foot has trod,
And the pirate hordes that wander
Shall never profane the sacred sod
Of those beautiful isles out yonder.

Never a spell shall blight our vines
Nor Sirius blaze above us,
But you and I shall drink our wines
And sing to the loved that love us.

So come with me where Fortune smiles
And the gods invite devotion,—
Oh, come with me to the Happy Isles
In the haze of that far-off ocean!



CONSISTENCY.



SHOULD painter attach to a fair human head
The thick, turgid neck of a stallion,
Or depict a spruce lass with the tail of a bass,
I am sure you would guy the rapscallion.

Believe me, dear Pisos, that just such a freak
Is the crude and preposterous poem
Which merely abounds in a torrent of sounds,
With no depth of reason below 'em.

'Tis all very well to give license to art, —
The wisdom of license defend I;
But the line should be drawn at the fripperish spawn
Of a mere *cacoethes scribendi*.

It is too much the fashion to strain at effects, —

Yes, that's what's the matter with Hannah!

Our popular taste by the tyros debased

Paints each barnyard a grove of Diana!

Should a patron require you to paint a marine,

Would you work in some trees with their barks on?

When his strict orders are for a Japanese jar,

Would you give him a pitcher like Clarkson?

Now, this is my moral: Compose what you may,

And Fame will be ever far distant

Unless you combine with a simple design

A treatment in toto consistent.



TO POSTUMUS.



POSTUMUS, my Postumus, the years are
gliding past,
And piety will never check the wrinkles
coming fast,

The ravages of time old age's swift advance has made,
And death, which unimpeded comes to bear us to the
shade.

Old friend, although the tearless Pluto you may strive to
please,

And seek each year with thrice one hundred bullocks to
appease,

Who keeps the thrice-huge Geryon and Tityus his slaves,
Imprisoned fast forevermore with cold and sombre waves,

Yet must that flood so terrible be sailed by mortals all,
Whether perchance we may be kings and live in royal
hall,

Or lowly peasants struggling long with poverty and
dearth,

Still must we cross who live upon the favors of the
earth.

And all in vain from bloody war and contest we are
free,

And from the waves that hoarsely break upon the Adrian
Sea ;

For our frail bodies all in vain our helpless terror
grows

In gloomy autumn seasons, when the baneful south wind
blows.

Alas ! the black Cocytus, wandering to the world below,
That languid river to behold we of this earth must go ;
To see the grim Danaides, that miserable race,
And Sisyphus of Aeolus, condemned to endless chase.

Behind you must you leave your home and land and
wife so dear,

And of the trees, except the hated cypresses, you rear.
And which around the funeral piles as signs of mourning
grow,

Not one will follow you, their short-lived master, there
below

Your worthier heir, the precious Cæcuban shall drink
galore,

Now with a hundred keys preserved and guarded in
your store,

And stain the pavements, pouring out in waste the
nectar proud, *

Better than that with which the pontiffs' feasts have been
endowed. #



TO MISTRESS PYRRHA.

I.



HAT perfumed, posie-dizened sirrah,
With smiles for diet,
Clasps you, O fair but faithless Pyrrha,
On the quiet?
For whom do you bind up your tresses,
As spun-gold yellow, —
Meshes that go with your caresses,
To snare a fellow?

How will he rail at fate capricious,
And curse you duly,
Yet now he deems your wiles delicious, —
You perfect, truly !

Pyrrha, your love's a treacherous ocean ;

He'll soon fall in there !

Then shall I gloat on his commotion,

For / have been there !



TO MISTRESS PYRRHA.

II.

WHAT dainty boy with sweet perfumes bedewed
Has lavished kisses, Pyrrha, in the cave?
For whom amid the roses, many-hued,
Do you bind back your tresses' yellow wave?

How oft will he deplore your fickle whim,
And wonder at the storm and roughening deeps,
Who now enjoys you, all in all to him,
And dreams of you, whose only thoughts he keeps.

Wretched are they to whom you seem so fair; —
That I escaped the storms, the gods be praised!
My dripping garments, offered with a prayer,
Stand as a tablet to the sea-god raised.



TO MELPOMENE.



MOFTY and enduring is the monument I've
reared :

Come, tempests, with your bitterness assailing ;
And thou, corrosive blasts of time, by all things mortal
feared,

Thy buffets and thy rage are unavailing !

I shall not altogether die : by far my greater part

Shall mock man's common fate in realms infernal :

My works shall live as tributes to my genius and my
art, —

My works shall be my monument eternal !

While this great Roman empire stands and gods protect
our fanes,

Mankind with grateful hearts shall tell the story
How one most lowly born upon the parched Apulian plains
First raised the native lyric muse to glory.

Assume, revered Melpomene, the proud estate I've won.

And, with thine own dear hand the meed supplying,
Bind thou about the forehead of thy celebrated son
The Delphic laurel-wreath of fame undying !



TO PHYLLIS.

I.



COME, Phyllis, I've a cask of wine
That fairly reeks with precious juices,
And in your tresses you shall twine
The loveliest flowers this vale produces.

My cottage wears a gracious smile ;
The altar, decked in floral glory,
Yearns for the lamb which bleats the while
As though it pined for honors gory.

Hither our neighbors nimbly fare,
The boys agog, the maidens snickering ;
And savory smells possess the air,
As skyward kitchen flames are flickering.

You ask what means this grand display.

This festive throng and goodly diet?

Well, since you 're bound to have your way,

I don't mind telling, on the quiet.

'T is April 13, as you know,

A day and month devote to Venus,

Whereon was born, some years ago,

My very worthy friend, Mæcenas.

Nay, pay no heed to Telephus ;

Your friends agree he does n't love you.

The way he flirts convinces us

He really is not worthy of you.

Aurora's son, unhappy lad !

You know the fate that overtook him ?

And Pegasus a rider had, —

I say he *had*, before he shook him !

Hæc docet (as you must agree)

'T is meet that Phyllis should discover
A wisdom in preferring me,
And mittening every other lover.

So come, O Phyllis, last and best

Of loves with which this heart 's been smitten,
Come, sing my jealous fears to rest,
And let your songs be those *I've* written.



TO PHYLLIS.

II.



SWEET Phyllis, I have here a jar of old and
precious wine,

The years which mark its coming from the
Alban hills are nine.

And in the garden parsley, too, for wreathing garlands
fair,

And ivy in profusion to bind up your shining hair.

Now smiles the house with silver; the altar, laurel-bound.
Longs with the sacrificial blood of lambs to drip around:
The company is hurrying, boys and maidens with the
rest;

The flames are flickering as they whirl the dark smoke
on their crest.

Yet you must know the joys to which you have been
summoned here

To keep the Ides of April, to the sea-born Venus dear, —

Ah, festal day more sacred than my own fair day of
birth,

Since from its dawn my loved Mæcenæ counts his years
of earth.

A rich and wanton girl has caught, as suited to her mind,

The Telephus whom you desire, — a youth not of your
kind.

She holds him bound with pleasing chains, the fetters of
her charms, —

Remember how scorched Phaëthon ambitious hopes
alarms.

The winged Pegasus the rash Bellerophon has chafed.

To you a grave example for reflection has vouchsafed, —

Always to follow what is meet, and never try to catch

That which is not allowed to you, an inappropriate
match.

Come now, sweet Phyllis, of my loves the last, and hence
the best

(For nevermore shall other girls inflame this manly
breast) ;

Learn loving measures to rehearse as we may stroll
along,

And dismal cares shall fly away and vanish at your
song.



TO CHLOE.

I.



WHY do you shun me, Chloe, like the fawn,
That, fearful of the breezes and the wood,
Has sought her timorous mother since the dawn,
And on the pathless mountain tops has stood?

Her trembling heart a thousand fears invites,
Her sinking knees with nameless terrors shake, —
Whether the rustling leaf of spring affrights,
Or the green lizards stir the slumbering brake.

I do not follow with a tigerish thought
Or with the fierce Gætulian lion's quest ;
So, quickly leave your mother, as you ought,
Full ripe to nestle on a husband's breast.



TO CHLOE.

II.



CHLOE, you shun me like a hind
That, seeking vainly for her mother,
Hears danger in each breath of wind,
And wildly darts this way and t' other ;

Whether the breezes sway the wood
Or lizards scuttle through the brambles,
She starts, and off, as though pursued,
The foolish, frightened creature scrambles.

But, Chloe, you're no infant thing
That should esteem a man an ogre ;
Let go your mother's apron-string
And pin your faith upon a toga !



III.

A PARAPHRASE.



OW happens it, my cruel miss,
You're always giving me the mitten?
You seem to have forgotten this:
That you no longer are a kitten!

A woman that has reached the years
Of that which people call discretion
Should put aside all childish fears
And see in courtship no transgression.

A mother's solace may be sweet.
But Hymen's tenderness is sweeter:
And though all virile love be meet,
You'll find the poet's love is metre.



IV

A PARAPHRASE, CIRCA 1715.



SINCE Chloe is so monstrous fair,
With such an eye and such an air,
What wonder that the world complains
When she each am'rous suit disdains?

Close to her mother's side she clings,
And mocks the death her folly brings
To gentle swains that feel the smarts
Her eyes inflict upon their hearts.

Whilst thus the years of youth go by,
Shall Colin languish, Strephon die?
Nay, cruel nymph! come, choose a mate,
And choose him ere it be too late!



V.

A PARAPHRASE, BY DR. I. W.



HY, Mistress Chloe, do you bother
With prattlings and with vain ado
Your worthy and industrious mother,
Eschewing them that come to woo?

Oh, that the awful truth might quicken
This stern conviction to your breast:
You are no longer now a chicken
Too young to quit the parent nest.

So put aside your froward carriage
And fix your thoughts, whilst yet there's time,
Upon the righteousness of marriage
With some such godly man as I'm.



VI.

A PARAPHRASE, BY CHAUCER.



YN that you, Chloe, to your moder sticken,
Maketh all ye yonge bacheloures full sicken;
Like as a lyttel deere you ben y-hiding
Whenas come lovers with theyre pityse chiding.
Sothly it ben faire to give up your moder
For to beare swete company with some oder;
Your moder ben well enow so farre shee goeth,
But that ben not farre enow, God knoweth;
Wherefore it ben sayed that foolysh ladyes
That marrye not shall leade an aype in Hadys;
But all that do with gode men wed full quicklye
When that they be on dead go to ye seints full sicklerly.



TO MÆCENAS.



HAN you, O valued friend of mine,

A better patron *non est!*

Come, quaff my home-made Sabine wine, —

You 'll find it poor but honest.

I put it up that famous day

You patronized the ballet,

And the public cheered you such a way

As shook your native valley.

Cæcuban and the Cælean brand

May elsewhere claim attention ;

But *I* have none of these on hand, —

For reasons I 'll not mention.

ENVOY.

So, come ! though favors I bestow
 Cannot be called extensive,
Who better than my friend should know
 That they 're at least expensive?



TO BARINE.



F for your oath broken, or word lightly spoken,
A plague comes, Barine, to grieve you ;
If on tooth or on finger a black mark shall
linger
Your beauty to mar, I 'll believe you.

But no sooner, the fact is, you bind, as your tact is,
Your head with the vows of untruth,
Than you shine out more charming, and, what 's more
alarming,
You come forth beloved of our youth.

It is advantageous, but no less outrageous,
Your poor mother's ashes to cheat ;
While the gods of creation and each constellation
You seem to regard as your meat.

Now Venus, I own it, is pleased to condone it ;
The good-natured nymphs merely smile ;
And Cupid is merry, — 't is humorous, very, —
And sharpens his arrows the while.

Our boys you are making the slaves for your taking,
A new band is joined to the old ;
While the horrified matrons your juvenile patrons
In vain would bring back to the fold.

The thrifty old fellows your loveliness mellow
Confess to a dread of your house ;
But a more pressing duty, in view of your beauty,
Is the young wife's concern for her spouse.



THE RECONCILIATION.

I.

HE.



WHEN you were mine, in auld lang syne,
And when none else your charms might
ogle,

I'll not deny, fair nymph, that I
Was happier than a heathen mogul.

SHE.

Before *she* came, that rival flame
(Had ever mater saucier filia?),
In those good times, bepraised in rhymes,
I was more famed than Mother Ilia.

HE.

Chloe of Thrace ! With what a grace
Does she at song or harp employ her !
I 'd gladly die, if only I
Could live forever to enjoy her !

SHE.

My Sybaris so noble is
That, by the gods, I love him madly !
That I might save him from the grave,
I 'd give my life, and give it gladly !

HE.

What if *ma belle* from favor fell,
And I made up my mind to shake her ;
Would Lydia then come back again,
And to her quondam love betake her ?

SHE.

My other beau should surely go,
And you alone should find me gracious :
For no one slings such odes and things
As does the lauriger Horatius !



THE RECONCILIATION.

II.

HORACE.



WHILE favored by thy smiles no other youth in
amorous teasing

Around thy snowy neck his folding arms was
wont to fling ;

As long as I remained your love, acceptable and pleasing,
I lived a life of happiness beyond the Persian king.

LYDIA.

While Lydia ranked Chloe in your unreserved opinion,
And for no other cherished thou a brighter, livelier
flame,

I. Lydia, distinguished throughout the whole dominion,
Surpassed the Roman Ilia in eminence of fame.

HORACE.

'Tis now the Thracian Chloe whose accomplishments
intrall me, —

So sweet in modulations, such a mistress of the lyre.
In truth the fates, however terrible, could not appal me ;
If they would spare her, sweet my soul. I gladly
would expire.

LYDIA.

And now the son of Ornytus, young Calais, inflames me
With mutual, restless passion and an all-consuming fire :
And if the fates, however dread, would spare the youth
who claims me,
Not only once would I face death, but gladly twice
expire.

HORACE.

What if our early love returns to prove we were mistaken
And bind with brazen yoke the twain, to part, ah !
nevermore ?
What if the charming Chlœe of the golden locks be shaken
And slighted Lydia again glide through the open door ?

LYDIA.

Though he is fairer than the star that shines so far
above you,

Thou lighter than a cork, more stormy than the Adrian
Sea,

Still should I long to live with you, to live for you and
love you,

And cheerfully see death's approach if thou wert near
to me.



THE ROASTING OF LYDIA.

NO more your needed rest at night
By ribald youth is troubled ;
No more your windows, fastened tight,
Yield to their knocks redoubled.

No longer you may hear them cry,
“Why art thou, Lydia, lying
In heavy sleep till morn is nigh,
While I, your love, am dying?”

Grown old and faded you bewail
The rake's insulting sally,
While round your home the Thracian gale
Storms through the lonely alley.

What furious thoughts will fill your breast,

What passions, fierce and tinglish

(Cannot be properly expressed

In calm, reposeful English.)

Learn this, and hold your carping tongue :

Youth will be found rejoicing

In ivy green and myrtle young,

The praise of fresh life voicing ;

And not content to dedicate,

With much protesting shiver,

The sapless leaves to winter's mate,

Hebrus, the cold dark river.



TO GLYCERA.

THE cruel mother of the Loves,
And other Powers offended,
Have stirred my heart, where newly roves
The passion that was ended.

'T is Glycera, to boldness prone,
Whose radiant beauty fires me ;
While fairer than the Parian stone
Her dazzling face inspires me.

And on from Cyprus Venus speeds,
Forbidding — ah ! the pity —
The Scythian lays, the Parthian meeds,
And such irrelevant ditty.

Here, boys, bring turf and vervain too ;

Have bowls of wine adjacent ;

And ere our sacrifice is through

She may be more complaisant.



TO LYDIA.

I.

WHEN, Lydia, you (once fond and true,
But now grown cold and supercilious)
Praise Telly's charms of neck and arms —
Well, by the dog! it makes me bilious!

Then with despite my cheeks wax white,
My doddering brain gets weak and giddy,
My eyes o'erflow with tears which show
That passion melts my vitals, Liddy!

Deny, false jade, your escapade,
And, lo! your wounded shoulders show it!
No manly spark left such a mark —
Leastwise he surely was no poet!

With savage buss did Telephus
 Abraid your lips, so plump and mellow ;
As you would save what Venus gave,
 I charge you shun that awkward fellow !

And now I say thrice happy they
 That call on Hymen to requite 'em ;
For, though love cools, the wedded fools
 Must cleave 'til death doth disunite 'em !



TO LYDIA.

II.

WHEN praising Telephus you sing
His rosy neck and waxen arms,
Forgetful of the pangs that wring
This heart for my neglected charms,

Soft down my cheek the tear-drop flows,
My color comes and goes the while,
And my rebellious liver glows,
And fiercely swells with laboring bile.

Perchance yon silly, passionate youth,
Distempered by the fumes of wine,
Has marred your shoulder with his tooth,
Or scarred those rosy lips of thine.

Be warned ; he cannot faithful prove,
Who, with the cruel kiss you prize,
Has hurt the little mouth I love,
Where Venus's own nectar lies.

Whom golden links unbroken bind,
Thrice happy—more than thrice are they ;
And constant, both in heart and mind,
In love await the final day.



TO QUINTIUS HIRPINUS.



O Scythian and Cantabrian plots
Pay them no heed, O Quintius !
So long as we
From care are free,
Vexations cannot cinch us.

Unwrinkled youth and grace, forsooth,
Speed hand in hand together ;
The songs we sing
In time of spring
Are hushed in wintry weather.

Why, even flow'rs change with the hours,
And the moon has divers phases ;

And shall the mind
Be racked to find
A clew to Fortune's mazes?

Nay; 'neath this tree let you and me
Woo Bacchus to caress us;
We're old, 't is true,
But still we two
Are thoroughbreds, God bless us!

While the wine gets cool in yonder pool,
Let's spruce up nice and tidy;
Who knows, old boy,
But we may decoy
The fair but furtive Lyde?

She can execute on her ivory lute
Sonatas full of passion,
And she bangs her hair
(Which is passing fair)
In the good old Spartan fashion.



WINE, WOMEN, AND SONG.



VARUS mine,
Plant thou the vine
Within this kindly soil of Tibur;
Nor temporal woes,
Nor spiritual, knows
The man who 's a discreet imbiber.
For who doth croak
Of being broke,
Or who of warfare, after drinking?
With bowl atween us,
Of smiling Venus
And Bacchus shall we sing, I 'm thinking.

Of symptoms fell
Which brawls impel,
Historic data give us warning;
The wretch who fights
When full, of nights,
Is bound to have a head next morning.
I do not scorn
A friendly horn,
But noisy toots, I can't abide 'em!
Your howling bat
Is stale and flat
To one who knows, because he's tried 'em!

The secrets of
The life I love
(Companionship with girls and toddy)
I would not drag
With drunken brag
Into the ken of everybody;
But in the shade
Let some coy maid

With smilax wreathe my flagon's nozzle,

Then all day long,

With mirth and song,

Shall I enjoy a quiet sozzle !



AN ODE TO FORTUNE.



LADY FORTUNE! 't is to thee I call,

Dwelling at Antium, thou hast power to crown

The veriest clod with riches and renown,

And change a triumph to a funeral.

The tillers of the soil and they that vex the seas,

Confessing thee supreme, on bended knees

Invoke thee, all.

Of Dacian tribes, of roving Scythian bands,

Of cities, nations, lawless tyrants red

With guiltless blood, art thou the haunting dread ;

Within thy path no human valor stands,

And, arbiter of empires, at thy frown

The sceptre, once supreme, slips surely down

From kingly hands.

Necessity precedes thee in thy way ;
Hope fawns on thee, and Honor, too, is seen
Dancing attendance with obsequious mien ;
But with what coward and abject dismay
The faithless crowd and treacherous wantons fly
When once their jars of luscious wine run dry, —
Such ingrates they !

Fortune, I call on thee to bless
Our king, — our Cæsar girt for foreign wars !
Help him to heal these fratricidal scars
That speak degenerate shame and wickedness ;
And forge anew our impious spears and swords,
Wherewith we may against barbarian hordes
Our Past redress !



TO A JAR OF WINE.



GRACIOUS jar, — my friend, my twin,

Born at the time when I was born, —

Whether tomfoolery you inspire

Or animate with love's desire,

Or flame the soul with bitter scorn,

Or lull to sleep, O jar of mine !

Come from your place this festal day ;

Corvinus hither wends his way,

And there 's demand for wine !

Corvinus is the sort of man

Who dotes on tedious argument.

An advocate, his ponderous pate

Is full of Blackstone and of Kent ;

Yet not insensible is he,

O genial Massic flood ! to thee.

Why, even Cato used to take
A modest, surreptitious nip
At meal-times for his stomach's sake,
Or to forefend la grippe.

How dost thou melt the stoniest hearts,
And bare the cruel knave's design ;
How through thy fascinating arts
We discount Hope, O gracious wine !
And passing rich the poor man feels
As through his veins thy affluence steals.

Now, prithee, make us frisk and sing,
And plot full many a naughty plot
With damsels fair — nor shall we care
Whether school keeps or not !
And whilst thy charms hold out to burn
We shall not deign to go to bed,
But we shall paint creation red ;
So, fill, sweet wine, this friend of mine, —
My lawyer friend, as aforesaid.



TO POMPEIUS VARUS.



POMPEY, what fortune gives you back
To the friends and the gods who love you?
Once more you stand in your native land,
With your native sky above you.
Ah, side by side, in years ago,
We've faced tempestuous weather,
And often quaffed
The genial draught
From the same canteen together.

When honor at Phillippi fell
A prey to brutal passion,
I regret to say that my feet ran away
In swift Iambic fashion.

You were no poet ; soldier born,
You stayed, nor did you wince then.
Mercury came
To my help, which same
Has frequently saved me since then.

But now you 're back, let 's celebrate
In the good old way and classic ;
Come, let us lard our skins with nard,
And bedew our souls with Massic !
With fillets of green parsley leaves
Our foreheads shall be done up ;
And with song shall we
Protract our spree
Until the morrow's sun-up.



THE POET'S METAMORPHOSIS.



ECENAS, I propose to fly

To realms beyond these human portals ;

No common things shall be my wings,

But such as sprout upon immortals.

Of lowly birth, once shed of earth,

Your Horace, precious (so you 've told him),

Shall soar away ; no tomb of clay

Nor Stygian prison-house shall hold him.

Upon my skin feathers begin

To warn the songster of his fleeting ;

But never mind, I leave behind

Songs all the world shall keep repeating.

Lo ! Boston girls, with corkscrew curls,
And husky westerns, wild and woolly,
And southern climes shall vaunt my rhymes,
And all profess to know me fully.

Methinks the West shall know me best,
And therefore hold my memory dearer ;
For by that lake a bard shall make
My subtle, hidden meanings clearer.

So cherished, I shall never die ;
Pray, therefore, spare your dolesome praises,
Your elegies, and plaintive cries,
For I shall fertilize no daisies !



TO VENUS.



VENUS, dear Cnidian-Paphian queen !
Desert that Cyprus way off yonder,
And fare you hence, where with incense
My Glycera would have you fonder ;
And to your joy bring hence your boy,
The Graces with unbelted laughter,
The Nymphs, and Youth, — then, then, in sooth.
Should Mercury come tagging after.



IN THE SPRINGTIME.

I.



COMES spring ! The boats bound to the sea ;

The breezes, loitering kindly over

The fields, again bring herds and men

The grateful cheer of honeyed clover.

Now Venus hither leads her train ;

The Nymphs and Graces join in orgies ;

The moon is bright, and by her light

Old Vulcan kindles up his forges.

Bind myrtle now about your brow,

And weave fair flowers in maiden tresses ;

Appease god Pan, who, kind to man,

Our fleeting life with affluence blesses ;

But let the changing seasons mind us

That Death 's the certain doom of mortals, —

Grim Death, who waits at humble gates,

And likewise stalks through kingly portals.

Soon, Sestius, shall Plutonian shades

Enfold you with their hideous seemings ;

Then love and mirth and joys of earth

Shall fade away like fevered dreamings.



IN THE SPRINGTIME.

II.



HE western breeze is springing up, the ships
are in the bay,
And spring has brought a happy change as
winter melts away.

No more in stall or fire the herd or plowman finds delight ;
No longer with the biting frosts the open fields are white.

Our Lady of Cythera now prepares to lead the dance,
While from above the kindly moon gives an approving
glance ;

The Nymphs and comely Graces join with Venus and the
choir,
And Vulcan's glowing fancy lightly turns to thoughts of
fire.

Now it is time with myrtle green to crown the shining pate,
And with the early blossoms of the spring to decorate ;
To sacrifice to Faunus, on whose favor we rely,
A sprightly lamb, mayhap a kid, as he may specify.

Impartially the feet of Death at huts and castles strike ;
The influenza carries off the rich and poor alike.
O Sestius, though blest you are beyond the common run,
Life is too short to cherish e'en a distant hope begun.

The Shades and Pluto's mansion follow hard upon the
grip.
Once there you cannot throw the dice, nor taste the
wine you sip ;
Nor look on blooming Lycidas, whose beauty you
commend,
To whom the girls will presently their courtesies extend.



TO A BULLY.



YOU, blatant coward that you are,
Upon the helpless vent your spite.
Suppose you ply your trade on me :
Come, monkey with this bard, and see
How I 'll repay your bark with bite !

Ay, snarl just once at me, you brute !
And I shall hound you far and wide,
As fiercely as through drifted snow
The shepherd dog pursues what foe
Skulks on the Spartan mountain-side.

The chip is on my shoulder — see?

But touch it and I 'll raise your fur;

I 'm full of business, so beware!

For, though I 'm loaded up for bear,

I 'm quite as like to kill a cur!



TO MOTHER VENUS.



MOTHER VENUS, quit, I pray,
Your violent assailing !
The arts, forsooth, that fired my youth
At last are unavailing ;
My blood runs cold, I 'm getting old,
And all my powers are failing.

Speed thou upon thy white swans' wings,
And elsewhere deign to mellow
With thy soft arts the anguished hearts
Of swain that writhe and bellow ;
And right away seek out, I pray,
Young Paullus, — he 's your fellow !

You 'll find young Paullus passing fair,
Modest, refined, and tony ;
Go, now, incite the favored wight !
With Venus for a crony
He 'll outshine all at feast and ball
And conversazione !

Then shall that godlike nose of thine
With perfumes be requited,
And then shall prance in Salian dance
The girls and boys delighted,
And while the lute blends with the flute
Shall tender loves be plighted.

But as for me, as you can see,
I 'm getting old and spiteful.
I have no mind to female kind,
That once I deemed delightful ;
No more brim up the festive cup
That sent me home at night full.

Why do I falter in my speech,

O cruel Ligurine?

Why do I chase from place to place

In weather wet and shiny?

Why down my nose forever flows

The tear that 's cold and briny?



TO LYDIA.



TELL me, Lydia, tell me why,

By the gods that dwell above,
Sybaris makes haste to die
Through your cruel, fatal love.

Now he hates the sunny plain ;

Once he loved its dust and heat.

Now no more he leads the train

Of his peers on coursers fleet.

Now he dreads the Tiber's touch,

And avoids the wrestling-rings, —

He who formerly was such

An expert with quoits and things.

Come, now, Mistress Lydia, say

Why your Sybaris lies hid,

Why he shuns the martial play,

As we 're told Achilles did.



TO NEOBULE.



SORRY life, forsooth, these wretched girls
are undergoing,

Restrained from draughts of pleasant wine,
from loving favors showing,

For fear an uncle's tongue a reprimand will be bestowing !

Sweet Cytherea's winged boy deprives you of your spinning,
And Hebrus, Neobule, his sad havoc is beginning,
Just as Minerva thriftily gets ready for an inning.

Who could resist this gallant youth, as Tiber's waves he
breasted,

Or when the palm of riding from Bellerophon he wrested,
Or when with fists and feet the sluggers easily he bested ?

He shot the fleeing stags with regularity surprising ;
The way he intercepted boars was quite beyond
surmising, —
No wonder that your thoughts this youth has been
monopolizing !

So I repeat that with these maids fate is unkindly
dealing,
Who never can in love's affair give license to their
feeling,
Or share those sweet emotions when a gentle jag is
stealing.



AT THE BALL GAME.

THAT gods or heroes, whose brave deeds none
can dispute,
Will you record, O Clio, on the harp and
flute?

What lofty names shall sportive Echo grant a place
On Pindus' crown or Helicon's cool, shadowy space?

Sing not, my Orpheus, sweeping oft the tuneful strings.
Of gliding streams and nimble winds and such poor
things ;

But lend your measures to a theme of noble thought,
And crown with laurel these great heroes, as you ought.

Now steps Ryanus forth at call of furious Mars,
And from his oaken staff the sphere speeds to the stars ;
And now he gains the tertiary goal, and turns,
While whiskered balls play round the timid staff of Burns.

Lo ! from the tribunes on the bleachers comes a shout,
Beseeching bold Ansonius to line 'em out ;
And as Apollo's flying chariot cleaves the sky,
So stanch Ansonius lifts the frightened ball on high.

Like roar of ocean beating on the Cretan cliff,
The strong Komiske gives the panting sphere a biff ;
And from the tribunes rise loud murmurs everywhere,
When twice and thrice Mikellius beats the mocking air.

And as Achilles' fleet the Trojan waters sweeps,
So horror sways the throng, — Pfefferius sleeps !
And stalwart Konnor, though by Mercury inspired,
The Equus Carolus defies, and is retired.

So waxes fierce the strife between these godlike men ;
And as the hero's fame grows by Virgilian pen,
So let Clarksonius Maximus be raised to heights
As far above the moon as moon o'er lesser lights.

But as for me, the ivy leaf is my reward,
If you a place among the lyric bards accord ;
With crest exalted, and, O "People," with delight,
I'll proudly strike the stars, and so be out of sight.



THE day is done ; and, lo ! the shades

Melt 'neath Diana's mellow grace.

Hark, how those deep, designing maids

Feign terror in this sylvan place !

Come, friends, 't is time that we should go ;

We 're honest married folk, you know.

Was not the wine delicious cool

Whose sweetness Pyrrha's smile enhanced ?

And by that clear Bandusian pool

How gayly Chloe sung and danced !

And Lydia Dic, — aha, methinks

You 'll not forget the saucy minx !

But, oh, the echoes of those songs

That soothed our cares and lulled our hearts!

Not to that age nor this belongs

The glory of what heaven-born arts

Speak with the old distinctive charm

From yonder humble Sabine farm!

The day is done. Now off to bed,

Lest by some rural ruse surprised,

And by those artful girls misled,

You two be sadly compromised.

You go; perhaps *I* 'd better stay

To shoo the giddy things away!

But sometime we shall meet again

Beside Digentia, cool and clear, —

You and we twain, old friend; and then

We 'll have our fill of pagan cheer.

Then, could old Horace join us three,

How proud and happy he would be!

Or if we part to meet no more

 This side the misty Stygian Sea,

Be sure of this: on yonder shore

 Sweet cheer awaiteth such as we;

A Sabine pagan's heaven, O friend, —

The fellowship that knows no end!

E. F.



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